

Question on Notice

No. 1056

Asked on Friday, 14 October 2022

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$1.7m commitment to provide 15 Care Army connect workers—

Will the Minister advise (a) which of the 127 neighbourhood centres (reported separately) have the 15 community connect workers worked with and (b) what is the allocation process?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has invested \$1.7 million to deliver on its 2020 election commitment to fund 15 Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect Workers in priority locations across the State.

The Queensland Government is partnering with Volunteering Queensland, who has been working collaboratively with the 15 Neighbourhood and Community Centres to provide support and assistance to the workers and the Neighbourhood and Community Centres, to link volunteers with local organisations and to embed practices, resources and networks developed during the pilot for the ongoing benefit of the community.

The identified locations of the 15 paid Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect Workers, are:

- Inala Community House
- Gailes Community House
- Varsity Lakes Community Resource Centre
- Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre
- New Farm Neighbourhood Centre
- Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre
- St David's Neighbourhood Centre in Coopers Plains
- Multilink Community Services in Logan Central
- Lockyer Community Centre in Gatton
- Bundaberg Neighbourhood Centre
- Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre
- Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre
- Whitsunday Community Centre
- The Neighbourhood Hub in Mackay
- Hambleton House in Cairns.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy identified areas of need and determined the most appropriate locations for the Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect Workers based on extensive analysis of evidence, including the

Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage and COVID Economic Vulnerability Index.

To maximise coverage and support and to prevent co-location with existing Community Connect Workers and Community Link Workers, areas of need were then assessed by proximity to an existing funded Neighbourhood and Community Centre.